



Dear President Biden,

Over a year ago, we came together as a bipartisan group of former members of Congress to publicly acknowledge the global crisis facing biodiversity and the profound need to do something about it. Up to one million species are facing extinction within decades and 66 percent of the [ocean](#) and 75 percent of the land around the world has been severely altered by mankind's activities. We believe that it is essential to respond to this crisis and to better protect more of the natural world. We also believe that doing so need not be partisan.

Our call then was for global leaders to support a new international goal of protecting at least 30 percent of the planet's land and ocean by 2030. We encouraged ambitious action domestically as well, expressing our hope that the United States would redouble its efforts to advance terrestrial and marine conservation.

In light of this, we were pleased to see the early action that you have taken to establish a new goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the lands and waters within the U.S. by 2030. We applaud this action and your early attention to this critical issue.

In addition to helping respond to the escalating and dramatic loss of nature, we believe that advancing locally-driven conservation can boost local economies and create more opportunities for people to get outside with their friends and families. Both of these additional benefits are timelier now than ever before. Over the past year we witnessed more Americans spending time in nature for their mental and physical health, and we expect that this trend of increased demand for outdoor access will continue for the foreseeable future.

We have found that for conservation to be successful and durable, decisions must reflect input from all stakeholders, from local governments to private landowners, sportsmen, businesses, and more. We look forward to following your Administration's process for achieving and measuring progress towards this 30 percent goal, and we urge you to ensure that it remains collaborative and inclusive of different perspectives. With the right level of planning and participation, we believe that there is significant potential for such an effort to deliver a series of benefits not just for the natural world, but for all Americans and communities across our country.

Sincerely,

Russ Feingold
US Senator
Wisconsin
1993-2011
Honorary Ambassador-Campaign for Nature

Tim Petri
US Representative



Wisconsin
1979-2015

Jim Leach
US Representative
Iowa
1977-2007

Connie Morella
US Representative
Maryland
1987-2003

Tom Perriello
US Representative
Virginia
2009-2011

John "Joe" Schwarz, MD
US Representative
Michigan
2005-2007

Charlie Bass
US Representative
New Hampshire
1995-2007 & 2011-2013

Leon Panetta
US Representative
California
1997-1993